



Minutes of the Nov. 9, 2010 meeting

Vice President Joan Vagts called the meeting of the Fayette County Master Gardeners to order Tuesday, November 9, 2010. The meeting was held at the Fayette County Extension Office in Fayette with 13 members present.

Sondra Cabell from the Fontana Nature Center presented a program on raptors. She displayed parts of different raptors and the group tried to decide which raptor they were from. She brought with her a live turkey vulture with a broken wing which she carried around the room and told us about. She gave us many facts about raptors one of which it is illegal to have any parts including feathers in your possession.

Old business included the reporting of volunteer hours. Hours can be reported on line, emailed to Kathy Steege at the extension office, or

mailed to the office and Kathy will pass the information on.

New members David Melcher, Nancy Davies, Jayne Bouska, Melody Patrick, Carol Weidemann, and Gordon Murray John were recognized and presented certificates.

Gary Whittenbaugh shared with the group we are either active or nonactive Master Gardeners and not certified Master Gardeners. He also reported one person cannot report hours in two counties. All of the hours should be combined and reported in the one most of the hours were in.

It was discussed how the money for the club is being handled. It was determined it is being

handled correctly with all money going to the Extension office and the bills being paid there.

New business included a discussion on a donation being made to Fontana Nature Center. Lynn Pleggenkuhle made the motion a donation of \$100.00 would be made and Pat Baumler seconded it.

Lorry Kohls presented Marty Kraus a gift of appreciation for her time and patience and all the extra things she does for our group.

Election of officers was held. Carol Halverson was voted to be Vice-President but declined. Mary Beth Jaggard was then elected Vice-President, and Melody Patrick will be the Treasurer for 2011.

The Linn County Master Gardener winter gardening fair is February 19.

Several topics were discussed for speakers for next year. A newsletter was received from ISU and members can sign up to receive it by email. The web address is:

<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001OTT5VF4cH9FOkg4khmifPw%3D%3D>

The meeting was adjourned and treats were served by Carol Halverson and Melody Patrick.

Respectfully submitted.

Secretary Coleen Wymer



From the editor

It's that time again – time to pay your dues. Our operating expenses as an organization are pretty minimal, thanks to the generosity of ISU Extension, but our dues are pretty minimal, as well. Only \$5.00 a year will keep you in the loop, whether you can attend the meetings or not. I do, however, want to encourage you to come when you can, even if that isn't regularly. We can only be as strong as our membership. The money we raise at the plant sale goes primarily for the scholarships we offer at NICC and UIU, and for other worthy causes that you suggest. Dues can be paid at the January meeting or by mail or by dropping them off at the Extension office in Fayette. Mail them to Melody Patrick, 12911 Major Road, Eldorado IA 52175.

Lynn did some checking on the Gardening Calendar for us (thanks, Lynn!) Kathy says "We do have garden calendars again this year. They are called Gardening is Good for You. It has the usual gorgeous pictures and monthly horticulture schedule (pot up dahlias, begonias, and cannas; prune grapevines, etc) and has a tip each month on how gardening is good for you. All for the low price of \$6.00!!!!"

Did everyone receive an email newsletter from ISU Extension Consumer Horticulture? It had good articles from Bob Hauer about wind chill and plants and perennials from seed. If you didn't get it and would like it, I'm sure we can get you on the list. I don't know if there is a print version available.

And last, Pat Baumler has a MUST SEE warning about a new invasive pest:
<http://www.birdchick.com/wp/2010/05/great-another-invasive-pest-to-worry-about/>

QUESTIONS ABOUT WINTER DAMAGE

SNOW COVERED SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES

How do I prevent damage to small trees and shrubs from heavy, wet snow?

The weight of heavy, wet snow can cause considerable damage to small trees and shrubs. In late fall, multi-stemmed evergreens, such as arborvitae, can be wrapped with twine or rope to prevent damage from heavy snows. When heavy, wet snow accumulates on small trees and shrubs gently shake the snow from their branches or carefully brush off the snow with a broom. When cleaning driveways and sidewalks, do not throw heavy, wet snow onto small trees or shrubs. Also, avoid dumping snow onto small trees and shrubs when raking snow off roofs.

SNOW ON EVERGREENS

I HAVE SEVERAL SMALL EVERGREENS IN MY YARD. DO I NEED TO UNCOVER THE EVERGREENS IF THEY GET BURIED IN SNOW?

No, there is no need to uncover the evergreens. The snow will not suffocate the evergreens. The snow acts like an insulating blanket and protects the evergreens from desiccating winter winds.

DEICING SALT DAMAGE

How can I prevent damage to trees and shrubs from deicing salts?

Homeowners can minimize salt damage by using deicing salts prudently. Before applying salt, wait until the precipitation has ended and remove as much of the ice and snow as possible. Use deicing salts at rates sufficient to loosen ice and snow from driveways and sidewalks, then remove the loosened ice and snow with a shovel (deicing salts need to be applied at much higher rates to completely melt ice and snow). Mix salt with sand or another abrasive material. Fifty pounds of sand mixed with one pound of salt works effectively.



From our President –

By the time you read this, the hustle and bustle of Christmas will be over and we'll all be looking forward to spring! I've always said I like living in Iowa because the below zero days in January really make you appreciate the hot humid days of August. I'm not exactly sure how true that is, but the cold weather and short days that keep us indoors help me to catch up on (or at least work on!) all of my household projects that get sorely neglected when I'm busy with my gardening. Still, I catch myself looking out the window and wondering where I should put my vegetable garden and all the plants I want to transplant from the other house next spring.

As the New Year approaches, many make New Year's resolutions. I'm not usually one of those people, but I do have a goal I would like to work toward in 2011. It is to increase attendance and participation in our Master Gardener group. With fewer Master Gardener classes in Fayette County, our membership numbers have been decreasing. What can we do to bring former members back to an "active" status? Any and all ideas are welcome!

Speaking of ideas, we are always looking for topics and speakers for our meetings. Are there any subjects that you would like to hear about? Do you know anyone who would be willing to present a program at one of our meetings? How about a road trip—any place you've been (or would like to go) that you think would be of interest to our group? I need ideas, people!

Now that the hours of daylight are finally on the increase (an entire four minutes we'll gain before the end of the year!), I'm looking forward to 2011 and all the potential it holds. I hope you'll join me in January for our meeting and to hear our excellent in-house speaker, Gary!

Joan

**Next meeting: Jan. 11, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.
Fayette County Extension Office
Roll call: Did you receive any garden related gifts for Christmas?
Program: Gardening Outside Your Comfort Zone
Treats: Marty Kraus**

DEICING SALT DAMAGE - continued

Avoid piling salt-laden snow and ice around trees and shrubs. While the amount of salt applied to major roadways cannot be controlled, steps can be taken to minimize damage. As soon as the ground thaws in early spring, water areas where salt accumulates over winter. A thorough soaking should help flush the salt from the root zone of plants. If possible, alter the drainage pattern so winter run-off drains away from ornamental plants. When planting trees near major streets or highways, select salt-tolerant tree species.

[Guidelines for Selecting Trees, RG 0702](#), a Reiman Gardens publication, can be downloaded from the [Extension Online Store](#).



The 2010 Extension garden calendar featured this photograph. Beautiful photography as well as gardening and wellness tips fill the 2011 garden calendar.



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CHAUTAUQUA VIII

If you've been to one of the Extension Horticulture Chautauquas in the past seven years, you know it's a great way to help you survive the winter and get ready for Spring! This year's Chautauqua could be one of the best. We are still working on getting a few more speakers and vendors (suggestions are welcome) but here is what we have so far.

The Horticulture Chautauqua will be on Saturday, March 5th from 9:00 – 3:00 at the Dairy Center near Calmar. There will be four sessions during the day with three speakers from which to choose at each session. The cost for attending the Chautauqua will be \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Here are speakers scheduled so far:

Deb Walsler, a Linn Co. Master Gardner, has been a popular Chautauqua speaker. She will talk about Ornamental Grasses

Rick Pleggenkuhle - Ag & Hort. director for Cerro Gordo County with 16 years nursery experience will talk about Plant Propagation from soft and hardwood cuttings.

Keith Kovarik from K&K Gardens in Hawkeye will talk about some of the best "new" trees and shrubs that go beyond the usual maples, lilacs, and spirea.

Bob Hauer, ISU Horticulturist for NE Iowa, will talk about crafting with natural materials. Learn low-cost and easy ways to create unique displays from your garden.

Dave Steere Bremer Co. Natural Resources technician talks about pruning trees and shrubs. Proper pruning is the key to the long-term health and beauty of plants.

Josh Spece owns In the Country Garden and Gifts near Independence and will talk about Water Gardens with the emphasis on plants.

Deb Walsler will talk about New Perennials

Patrick O'Malley, Commercial Horticulture specialist, will talk about Organics, - what works and what doesn't.. Will castor oil, windmills or milky spore get rid of moles?

Sue Kuennen is a Master Gardener with a flair for crafts. She will help you make a willow & reed "garlic basket" to take home.

In addition we plan to have several more speakers. We are hoping to get speakers on drying food and saving seeds. We are also working on a more in depth description of the programs along with pictures at county websites. If all works out, the pamphlet will be at your Extension office by Dec. 13. Hope to see you there!